

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 00572 031519Z

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 USIA-12 /023 W
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P 031301Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5608

UNCLAS DUBLIN 0572

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, EI

SUBJECT: CANDIDATE FOR IVP PROGRAM FY74 - MICHAEL ANTHONY BURNS

REF: LASHLEY-JORDAN TELECON

1. GIVEN FACT THAT CANDIDATE KEVIN NOWLAN HAS BROKEN ANKLE AND CANNOT TRAVEL FOR SOME MONTHS EMBASSY SUGGESTS REPLACING HIM WITH TOP-NOTCH TELEVISION AND RADIO NEWS EDITOR MICHAEL BURNS, EXTREMELY HIGHLY REGARDED BY AMBASSADOR AND COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY AS WELL AS OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS. BURNS IS YOUNG, DYNAMIC, PROVOCATIVE, WELL-READ AND WELL-INFORMED. HE IS KEENLY INTERESTED IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS. HIS PROFESSIONAL CAREER HAS SPANNED WRITTEN, AUDIO, AND VISUAL MEDIA.

2. BORN: LEICESTER, ENGLAND, JAN. 17, 1937. HOME MAILING ADDRESS: 36 WAINSFORT CRESCENT, TEMPLEOGUE, DUBLIN 6, IRELAND. ACADEMIC TRAINING: 5. JOSEPH'S HIGH SCHOOL, CASTLEREA, CO. ROSCOMMON, IRELAND. DESCRIPTION OF PRESENT POSITION: EDITOR RADIO-TELEVISION NEWS WITH RADIO-TELEFIS EIREANN, THE NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY OF IRELAND. POLICY, DECISION-MAKING POST RELATING TO RADIO-TV NEWSCASTS, PLUS CONTENT, STRUCTURE OF MAIN NEWS PROGRAMS., DESCRIPTIONS OF POSITIONS HELD IN THE PAST: CUB REPORTER, DESCRIPTIVE WRITER VARIOUS LOCAL AND NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND; BEGAN BROADCASTING AS NEWS-MAN 1962, COVERING HOME AND FOREIGN STORIES; APPOINTED NEWS FEATURES EDITOR WITH RTE IN 1968, LAUNCHED 30-MINUTE LUNCH-TIME NEWS PROGRAM WHICH STILL COMMANDS IRISH LISTENERSHIP RECORD; ALSO LAUNCHED TV NEWS PROGRAM IN 1972 ON APPOINTMENT TO PRESENT POST. MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS0/HRTNATIO,
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AL UNION OF JOURNALISTS, INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF

JOURNALISTS. PUBLICATIONS: 30-40 SHORT STORIES IN PAST 15 YEARS; BRIEF HISTORY WEST ROSCOMMON, PUBLISHED IN 1956 (WHICH, BURNS SAYS, WAS PURCHASED MAINLY BY NON-DISCRIMINATING RELATIVES). TRAVEL: EXTECMIVE TRAVEL ON WORK ASSIGNMENTS THROUGHOUT EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST, SCANDANAVIA AND INDIA. HAS MADE BRIEF WORKING VISITS TO THE UNITED STATES.

3. BURNS WOULD LIKE TO VISIT A SMALL MID-WESTERN RADIO STATION, WHERE ONE OR TWO PROPLE HANDLE ALL FACETS OF STATION OPERATION; IN NEW YORK HE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT THE WORKINGS BEHIND NEW PROGRAMS ON ABC, CBS AND NBC AND TALK WITH NEWS EDITORS IN BOSTON EH WOULD LIKE TO VISIT WNAC-TV (HE KNOWS JOHN CALLAGHAN VERY WELL) IN SAN FRANCISCO HE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT CBS NEWS (HE KNOWS ROSS MCINERNEY). FOR VISITS TO NEWSROOMS OF NEWSPAPERS WE SUGGEST STOPS IN MINNEAPOLIS, NEW ORLEANS, AND LOS ANGELES. BURNS IS INTERESTED IN EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION AND THE ROLE OF THE REPORTER AND MENTIONED THAT HE BELIEVES N.E.T. IN SAN FRANCISCO HAS A PROGRAM WHEREBY JOURNALISTS GET TOGETHER AND DISCUSS, WORKSHOP STYLE, THEIR STORY.

HE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN STUDYING HAW A NEWSPAPER OR A RADIO/TV STATION SURVIVES WHERE THERE IS A DECLINE IN SALES, ADVERTISEMENTS, EMPLOYMENT, ETC. FOR REASONS BEYOND THE CONTROL OF THE ENTERPRIZE.

BURNS WOULD LIKE TO VISIT THE GRAND CANYON, AND INDIAN RESERVATION, A TEXAS RANCH, AND CHEYENNE, WYOMING, IF POSSIBLE.

4. BURNS IS AVAILABLE FOR TRAVEL LATE JULY 1974. HIS WIFE, BERNADETTE, EQUALLY WELL-INFORMED, WOULD PLAN ON ACCOMPANYING HIM. THE BURNSSES ARE WITHOUT A DOUBT AS CHARMING, GRACIOUS AND PERSONABLE AN YOUNG IRISH COUPLE AS THIS EMBASSY COULD EVER HOPE TO RECOMMEND.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, JOURNALISTS, VISITS, EDUCATIONAL & CULTURAL EXCHANGE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974DUBLIN00572
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740106-1017
From: DUBLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740577/aaaacqze.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LASHLEY-JORDAN TELECON
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 OCT 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <03 JAN 2003 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CANDIDATE FOR IVP PROGRAM FY74 - MICHAEL ANTHONY BURNS
TAGS: SCUL, EI, US, (BURNS, MICHAEL ANTHONY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005